

# QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT

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**DATE:** October 18, 2004

**STREAMLINING**

**PROJECT:** Evaluation of Wildlife Crossing Structures on US Highway 93 Evaro to Polson—Phase 1: Pre-construction data collection and finalization of evaluation

**START DATE:** March 1, 2002

**EXPECTED**

**COMPLETION DATE:** June 30, 2006

**FUNDING LEVEL:** \$562,500 (including 20% match from Montana Department of Transportation)

**ANTICIPATED**

**PRODUCTS:**

- Memo to Technical Design Committee on monitoring design considerations (completed May 2002)
- Animal-vehicle collision database (50% complete)
- Field Methods and Safety Protocol Handbook (90% complete)
- Summary of literature and existing data (50% complete)
- Memo defining the Measures of Effectiveness (75% complete)
- Long-term Research and Monitoring Evaluation Plan (50% complete)
- Phase 1 Pre-construction Case Study (30% complete)
- Pre-construction field data summary report (30% complete)

**MEASURABLE**

**RESULTS:**

(i.e. how did the project advance environmental streamlining)

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**PLEASE PROVIDE THE STATUS OF ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTS (E.G., PROJECT MILESTONES, DELIVERABLES, PRODUCT DISSEMINATION, RELEVANT DIVISION ACTIVITIES) FOR THE PROJECT IN THE APPROPRIATE SPACE(S) BELOW.**

THIRD REPORTING PERIOD (7/1/04-9/30/04)

Division Contact: Bob Seliskar

Funding Spent-to-Date: \$482,864.59

Funding Balance Remaining: \$79,635.41

### ***On-going Activities***

- Literature search and compilation of relevant data.
- Mentoring Whisper Maillet, WTI Graduate Fellow supported in cooperation with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), with her thesis field research on US 93 deer crossings and deer-vehicle mortalities.

### ***July, August, and September 2004***

- Oversight of field technician and graduate student for summer field work, including:
  - Tracking bed data collection and on-going maintenance of tracking beds. A total of 41 tracking beds were monitored two times a week and 1976 track observations were recorded from July-September.
  - Road and landscape characteristics data collection at tracking bed locations and at a random subsample of sites with no reported roadkills and sites with reported roadkills. A total of 24? tracking bed sites, 47 sites with no reported roadkills, and 48 sites with reported roadkills were surveyed for 30 variables. These data will be correlated to deer-vehicle collision rates and deer crossing rates. The variables of interest and methods of quantifying those variables are the same as what has been being collected on US 83 in the Seeley-Swan Valley, Montana, and will provide comparable data that will be useful in meta-analyses of animal-vehicle collision occurrences.
- Obtained remainder of animal-vehicle collision data from MDT for 2003 (original request could only be partially fulfilled until August). We continue to screen these data for duplicates and incorporate these into the larger long-term database on animal-vehicle collisions.

### ***Summary***

Bear study has completed field studies and is now in analysis and write-up. Road-kill data collection, tracking bed data collection protocols are all in place as are databases and quality assurance/quality control systems. All protocols are being documented in the Field Methods Handbook. Field Methods Handbook and Measures of Effectiveness report are 90% and 75% drafted, respectively. Tracking beds were monitored twice weekly and characteristics of sites where deer-road interaction events occur are being collected as well.